

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present application claims benefit of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/276,374, filed March 25, 1999, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/098,093, filed August 27, 1998. The disclosure of the prior application is considered part of (and is incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Implementations may use different combinations of circuit elements to achieve the functionality described with respect to circuits 311-318. For example, a software controlled processor coupled to the switching fabric 302 may receive FRM and BRM cells from the switching fabric 302, increment and decrement cell counters associated with source virtual channels, maintain a database stored in memory, delete excess BRM cells, and determine the contents of BRM cells sent toward source nodes over source virtual channels. Database 316 may be implemented in contents addressable memory (CAM) with locations that are

accessed based on VCI/VPI data values. In a CAM implementation, a database query may include asserting a VCI/VPI value as a CAM memory input to receive resource management data. The database 316 also may be implemented in a random access memory, or in data storage means such as a hard disk drive.